

# Fact Sheet

## Louisiana State Loan Repayment Program

### Objectives

The purpose of the Louisiana State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) is to encourage primary care practitioners to serve in health professional shortage areas. For the purpose of recruitment under this program, eligible primary care practitioners include physicians (allopathic or osteopathic) who have completed a residency in family practice, general practice, obstetrics/gynecology, internal medicine, pediatrics, or general psychiatry and dentists (DDS or DMD general or pediatric). Other eligible health care professionals include primary care physician assistants, certified nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, registered clinical dental hygienists, licensed clinical or counseling psychologists (Ph.D. or equivalent required), psychiatric nurse specialists, licensed professional counselors (masters or Ph.D. required), marriage and family therapists (masters or Ph.D. required) and licensed clinical social workers (masters or Ph.D. required). The mission of the program is to alleviate, and ultimately overcome, the state's problem of a substantial lack of primary care health professionals.

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### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Work in a federally designated health professional shortage area
- Work for a public or non-profit private entity
- Work full-time (40 hours per week) in an outpatient capacity
- Accept assignment of Medicare and Medicaid
- Have a sliding fee scale for low-income, uninsured patients
- Be a United States citizen or national
- Be licensed to practice in Louisiana
- Have no other obligation for health professional services
- Have not defaulted on educational loans without addressing the default
- Have not breached a health professional service contract

**Applications will be accepted from May 1<sup>st</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>. Funding notifications will be made in August. Applying to the program does not guarantee that funding will be awarded. If incomplete application packets are submitted, they will not be considered.**

### COMPENSATION

To enhance the provision of the health care services, the program will repay governmental or commercial **educational** loans obtained by the practitioner. Physicians and dentists can receive up to \$30,000 annually for a three (3) year initial commitment. Other professionals can receive up to \$15,000 annually for a three (3) year initial commitment.

Participants who complete their original commitment, remain in an eligible site in a health professional shortage area, still have educational loans to repay and have been compliant with all requirements may be able to extend their commitment for a 2-year extension.

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The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals through its Bureau of Primary Care and Rural Health administers this program. For more information, go to [www.pcrh.dhh.louisiana.gov](http://www.pcrh.dhh.louisiana.gov) or contact Beth Butler at (225) 342-4702 or by mail at 628 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802 or by e-mail at [beth.butler@la.gov](mailto:beth.butler@la.gov).